



The 2019 Annual Report

of the



The Fairfield County

Common Pleas Court

General Division

& Adult Probation Department

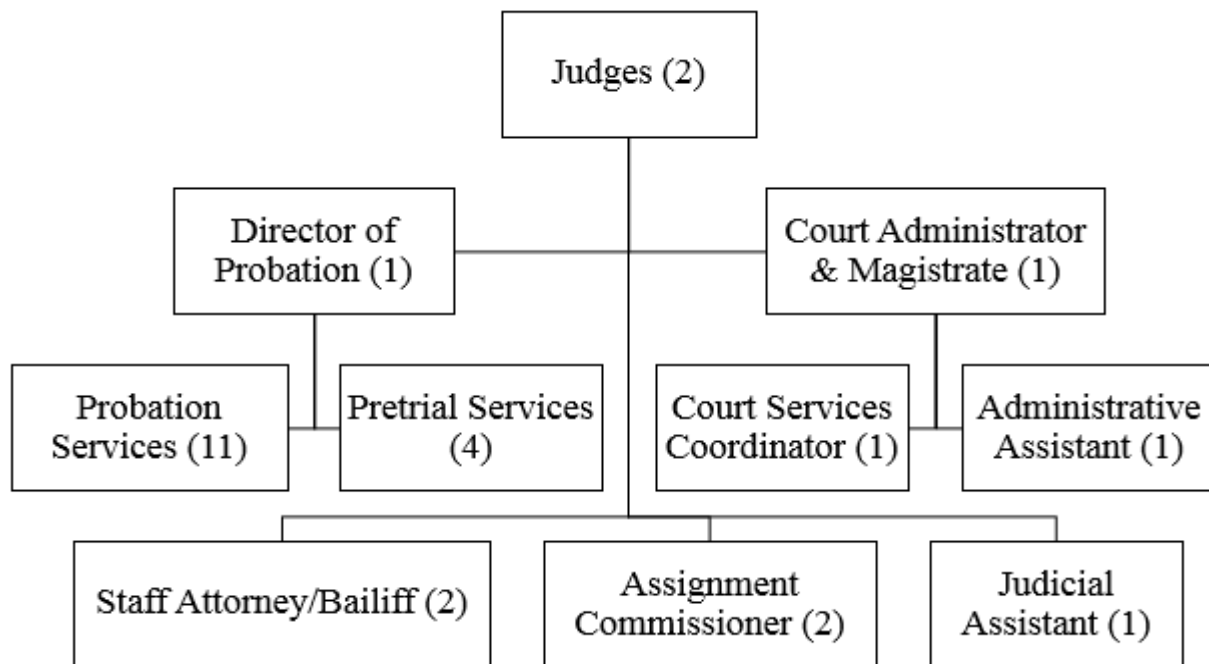
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ORGANIZATION

CURRENT TABLE OF ORGANIZATION



New Hires

Kelly Munn, *Bailiff*
Tiffany Westhoven, *Bond Officer*
Patches Thomas, *Community Control Officer*

Notable Staff Achievements

- ♦ Senior Probation Officer Casey Jones received his Impact Weapons Instructor Certification
- ♦ New Officers Patches Thomas and Tiffany Westhoven received their Impact Weapon and Taser Certifications
- ♦ Jill Boone was named a Certified Court Manager after completing a 3-year program with the Ohio Supreme Court

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

from Administrative Judge David A. Trimmer

The Fairfield County Court of Common Pleas continues to receive a high volume of criminal defendants that have been charged with serious drug offenses such as possession of heroin, methamphetamine, and fentanyl. The Court utilizes treatment-related sentences in attempting to reduce recidivism rates. This approach is continually preferred over incarceration; however, incarceration is unavoidable when a defendant's behavior remains unchanged. Of course, with the drug problem comes other societal issues such as an increase in theft-related offenses and sometimes even serious crimes of violence.

Last year, our Court was awarded a financial grant to further Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison (TCAP). We utilized this State money to expand treatment at our local jail and to increase the number of probation officers in our Community Control Department. It is indeed the probation officers who enforce court sentences and hold defendants accountable to move towards positive change. Our Court decided to continue with TCAP through 2020. The treatment aspect of drug-related cases has never been so fully pursued.

This year, the Ohio Supreme Court mandated full public disclosure on court case management. The Court has always been sensitive to the necessity of resolving cases in a timely fashion to maximize efficiency, finances, and justice. Both General Division Common Pleas Judges are committed to do what is necessary to accomplish this important goal.

With great enthusiasm, we look forward to next year and addressing the social challenges that face Fairfield County communities. Our staff, which includes our probation department as well as assignment commissioners, administrative assistants, bailiffs, a staff attorney, magistrate/court administrator, and court services coordinator, are all totally committed to ensuring that there is no weak link in the chain of the administration of justice. We also thank our supportive County Commissioners and Clerk of Court Branden Meyer and his staff for their continued commitment to excellence.



2019 HIGHLIGHTS

TCAP ALLOWS COURT TO HIRE ADDITIONAL STAFF

In July 2019, the Court, County Commissioners, and Sheriff elected to participate in the Targeting Community Alternatives to Prison Program. In turn, the County received State funding of \$720,000 disbursed over a two-year period.

A large portion of the TCAP grant award was allocated to hiring additional Adult Probation Department personnel to assist the department with ever-increasing caseloads and responsibilities. Specifically, the Court hired one new bond officer, promoted a current employee to bond officer status, and hired one new community control officer.

There are currently over 2,000 individuals under the supervision of the Fairfield County Adult Probation Department—the highest number of adult probationers Fairfield County Common Pleas Court has ever experienced. The Court is fortunate to have acquired the expertise of these additional staff members to ensure the department continues to provide quality service despite increased demand.



CONTINUED PROGRAMMING

The remainder of TCAP funding has been allocated to the continued provision of mental health, substance abuse, and other rehabilitative services to inmates housed in the Fairfield County Jail. These in-jail services, which are available to inmates regardless of offense, include mental health crisis intervention screenings as well as cognitive behavior and relapse prevention classes. In 2019, TCAP funding was also used to purchase office equipment, cover the rising costs of drug testing, and improve technology systems.



2019 HIGHLIGHTS

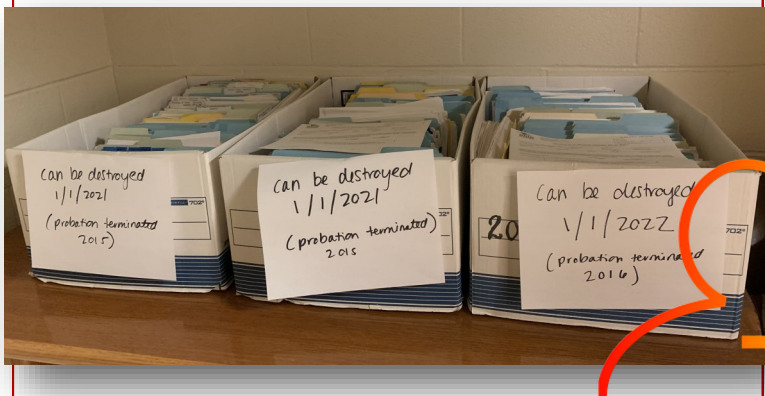
PRISON HEARINGS

In 2019, the Court coordinated with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation to begin conducting hearings involving inmates incarcerated in state prisons via videoconference. The Court held 28 hearings with inmates housed in Mansfield, Lebanon, Noble, and Southeastern Correctional Institutions, saving the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office the time and expense of over 50 roundtrip conveyances all over the State.

This process also benefits the inmates being addressed. When hearings are conducted remotely via video, inmates do not lose their place in prison training and/or rehabilitation programs like they would have otherwise.

RECORD RETENTION PROJECT

In 2019, Fairfield County opened a new Records Center. This required the Court and Community Control Department to evaluate and reorganize all of the files located in the County's former storage facility—some dating back to the 1950s. Over the span of several months, and with the assistance of many hardworking staff members, the Court and Community Control Department sorted, scanned, destroyed, and reorganized thousands of documents to ensure compliance with the Court and County's record retention policy.



2019 CERI Award Winners

The Court Employee Recognition Initiative aims to recognize and reward those employees who go above and beyond their duties to the Court, the county, the public, and their fellow co-workers.

This year's CERI Award recipients were **Katie Spires**, **Shannon Seesholtz**, and **Samantha Green** (pictured below). Congratulations to these three outstanding employees!



Also nominated for a CERI Award in 2019 were Andy Dreyer, Kelly Starkey, Kathy Hartman, Austin Miller, Kelsey Conn, Traci Dresbach, Wayne Moss, Casey Jones, Mary Quimby, Dan Jones, Lynne Gordon, and Tim Norris.



2019 HIGHLIGHTS

continued

CSPO Legal Assistance Fund

In 2019, the Court continued its CSPO Legal Assistance Fund after being awarded a Civil Justice Reform Grant by the Ohio Supreme Court. This pilot project provides court-appointed counsel to indigent litigants involved in Civil Stalking Protection Order cases. Since the inception of the program, the Court has appointed attorneys for 47 litigants, which has helped ensure fair results and a fully informed decision-making process.



Court Administrator Jill Boone accepted the 2019 Technology Grant Award from Justice Judy French



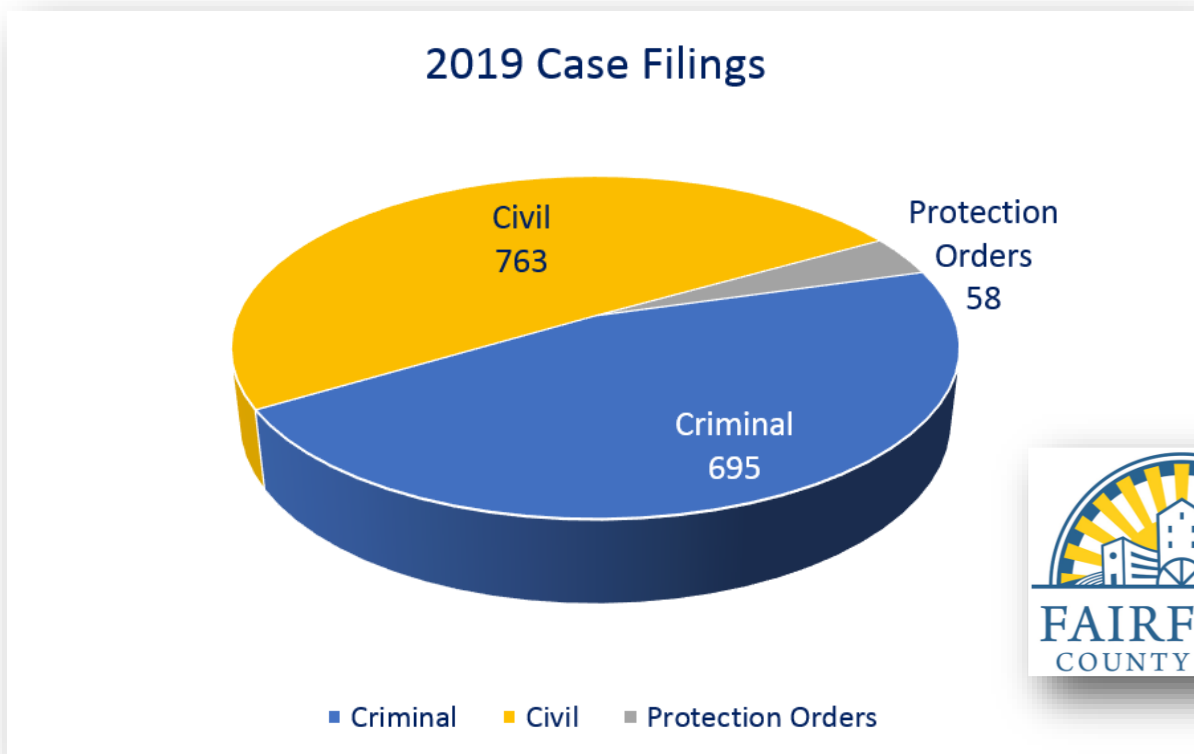
Ohio Supreme Court Justice Judy French personally presented the Court and Clerk's Office with their 2019 grant awards.

2019 Technology Grant Award

In April 2019, the Court received a Technology Grant from the Ohio Supreme Court in the amount of \$18,276 to purchase an additional eAccess portal for our case management system. This portal will enable court, clerk, probation, and prosecutor's office staff to remotely access the Court's case management system outside of the office. The Court is grateful for this grant, as it will allow us to increase effectiveness and accessibility to important court records while limiting long-term expenditures.

CASE STATISTICS

*as of 12/3/2019



2019 was another busy year for the Court, with the filing of 695 criminal cases, 763 civil cases, and 58 civil stalking protection order petitions.

Civil litigation is on the rise compared to last year, with an increase of over 50 civil cases filed in 2019. Conversely, less criminal cases were filed this year than in 2018, although numbers remain significantly higher than in the past. For example, the Court presided over 227 more criminal cases in 2019 than it did in 2014. Similarly, the number of protection order petitions have increased 120% over the past five years.

Despite this increase in caseload, the Court has continued to resolve cases in a timely manner. For example, the Court's overall average clearance rate (the performance measure used to identify how well a court keeps pace with its incoming caseload) for all pending cases is 105%, which exceeds the state-wide target rate of 100%. Further, the Court has maintained an average overage rate (the performance measure used to identify the percentage of cases pending past Supreme Court time guidelines) of less than 12%, which is in-line with state-wide averages.

More information about statistical performance measures and state-wide averages can be found at <https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/JCS/courtSvc/dashboards/default.asp>.

SUPERVISION STATISTICS

*as of 12/3/2019

2,032

Total Number of Individuals Currently
under Active Supervision

527

Number of Individuals Placed on
Community Control in 2019

178

Number of Individuals Whose
Supervision was Revoked and
Sentence Imposed

201

Number of Individuals Referred to
a CBCF or Other Residential
Treatment Facility

40

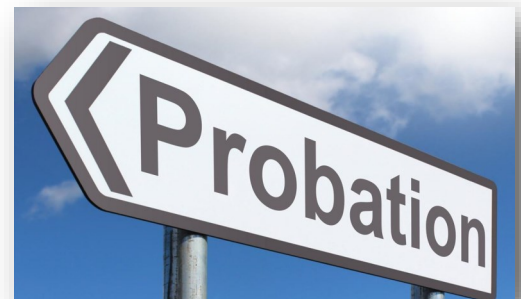
Number of Individuals Currently
Participating in a Specialized
Docket

29

Number of Individuals Who
Successfully Completed
Intervention in Lieu of Conviction

The Community Control Department continues to effectively supervise offenders and protect our community despite dramatically rising caseloads. This year, our Community Control Officers were tasked with supervising over 2,000 individuals—an overall caseload increase of nearly 50% over the past 3 years.

Despite the rise in numbers, officers continued to be active in the field, issuing 381 probation violations and making 206 probation-related arrests in 2019.



BUDGET NARRATIVE

In 2019, the Court and Community Control Department budgeted \$2,881,227 in anticipated general fund expenditures. Actual general fund expenditures as of mid-December 2019 totaled \$2,269,249. The largest expenditures for both departments in 2019 were employee salary and benefits (such as health insurance). Court-appointed attorneys' fees, juror expenses, and electronic monitoring of individuals under either bond or probation supervision were three of the largest non-personnel related expenditures incurred in 2019.

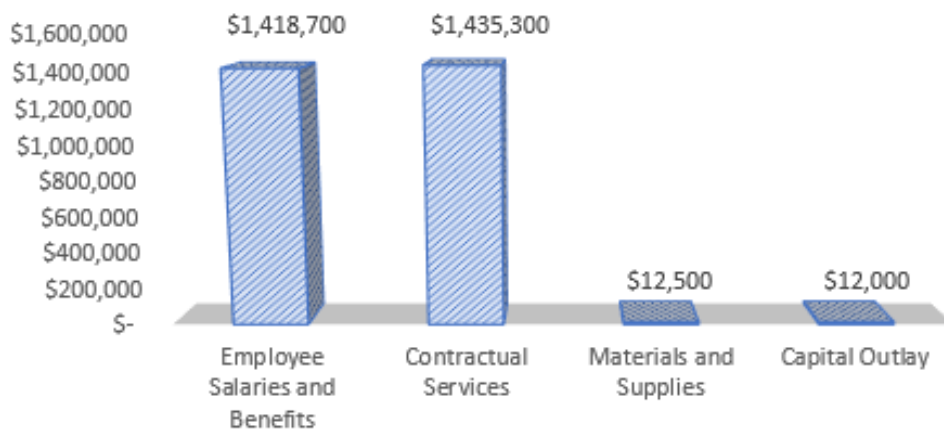
To help offset the costs associated with the rising caseload numbers of our Community Control Department, the Court continued to seek and apply for grant awards throughout 2019. This year, the Court applied for and/or collaborated on 6 grants, totaling over 1 million dollars in fiscal assistance to the Court and its community partners.

The Court and Community Control Department also continued to utilize special revenue funds generated by filing fees and probation supervision fees to support a variety of projects including case management system upgrades, hardware and software updates, and technology advancements in the courtroom.

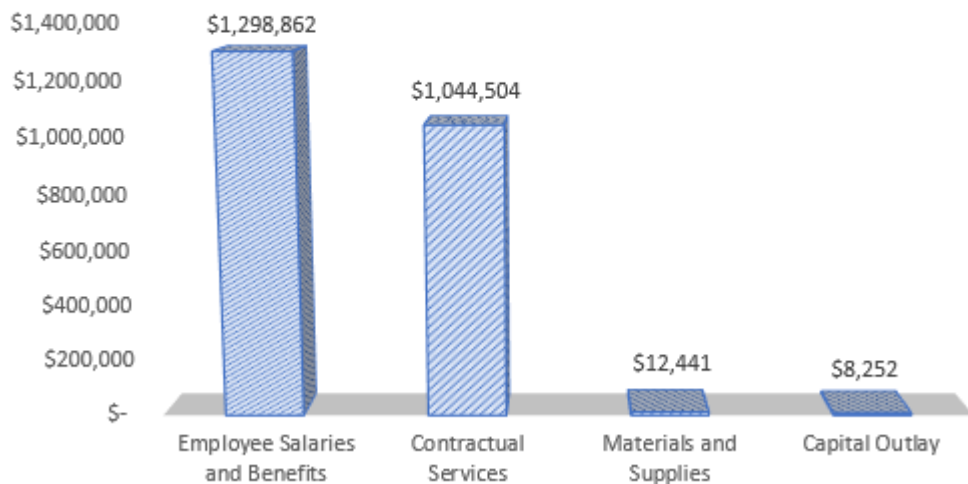


GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

ANTICIPATED GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES



ACTUAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

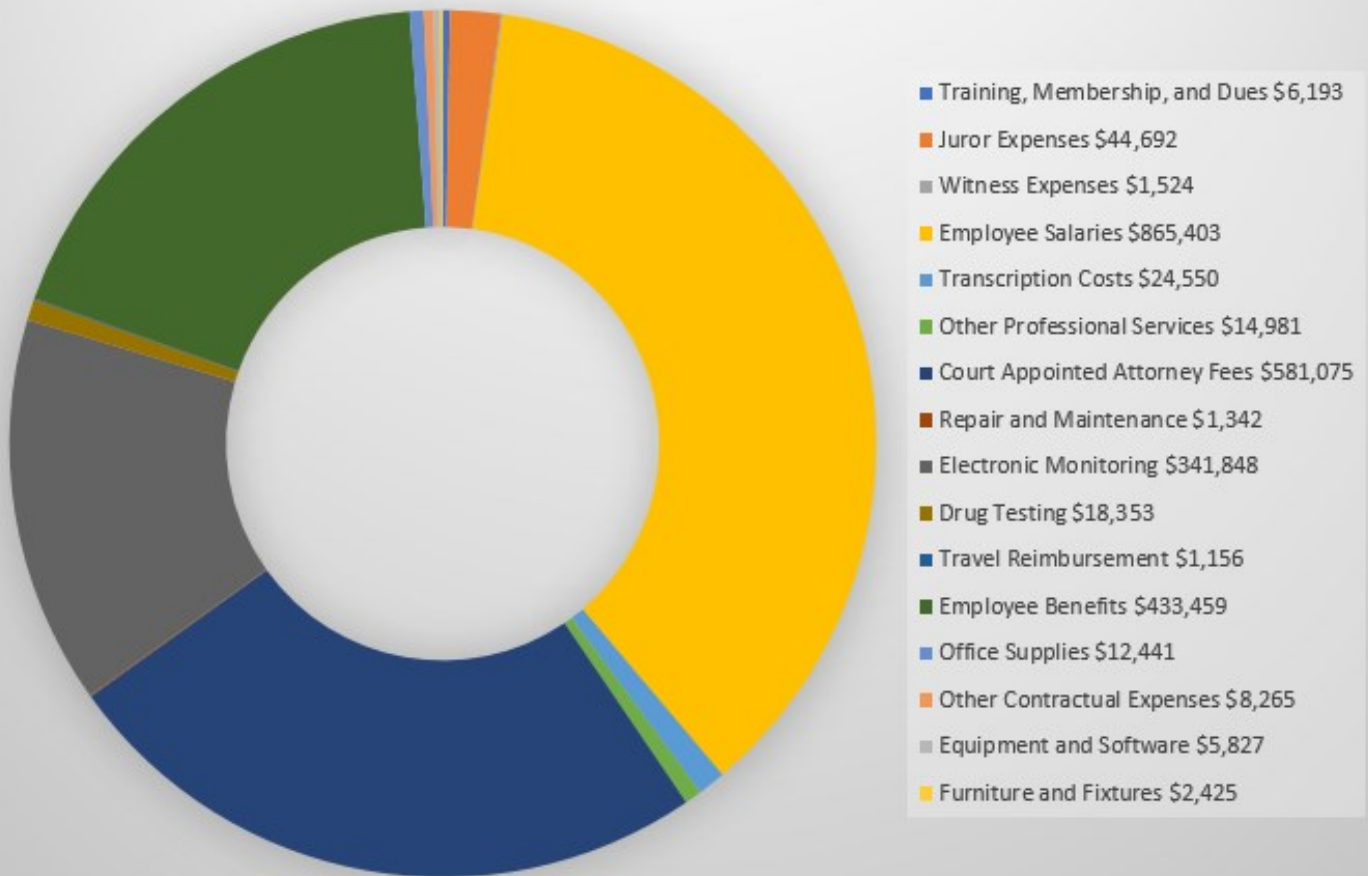


FINANCIAL DATA

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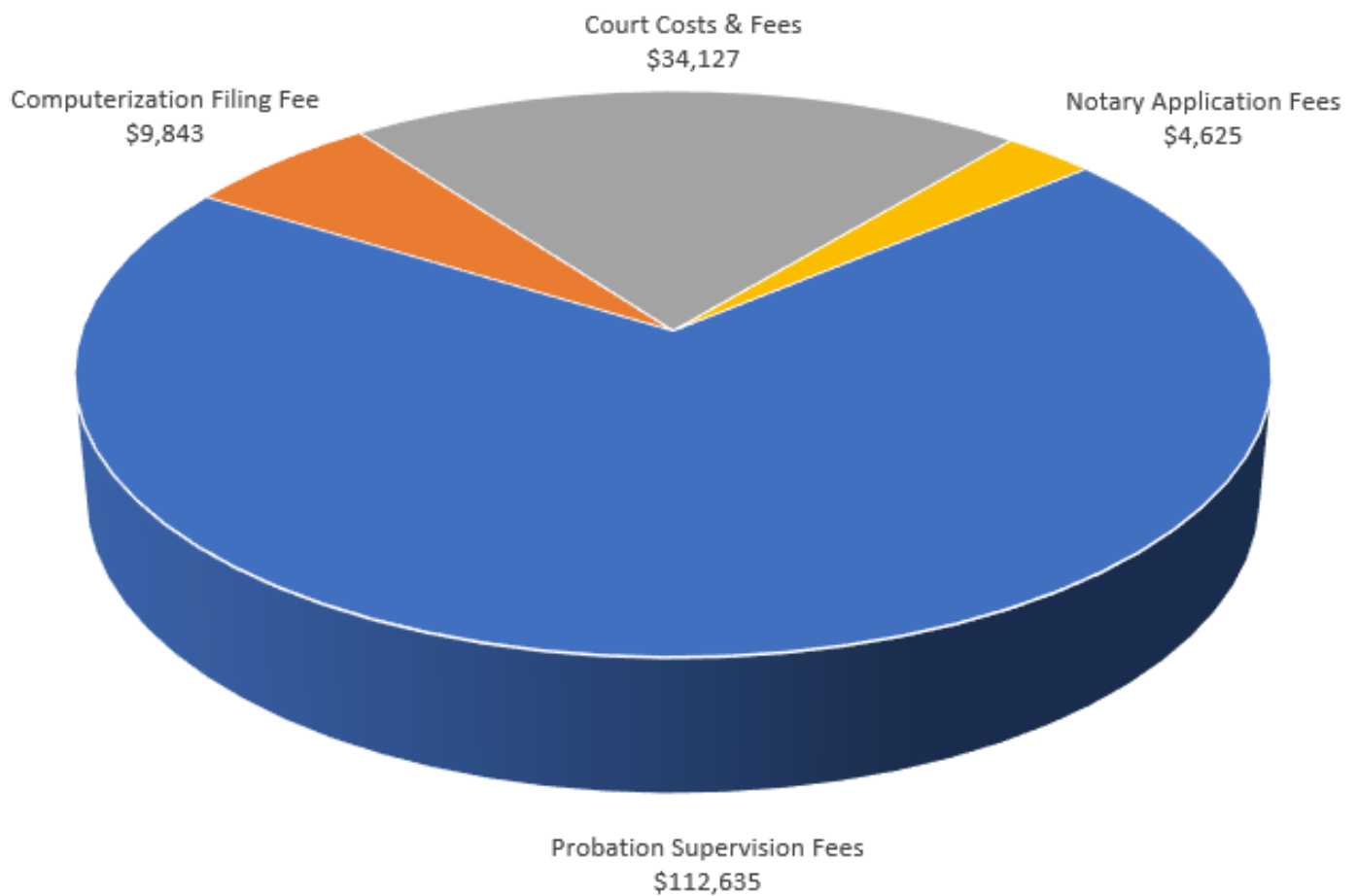
GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

Actual General Fund Expenditures By Line Item



(Line items totaling less than \$1,000 omitted from chart.)

2019 REVENUES



*as of 12/11/2019



FINANCIAL DATA

continued

2019 GRANT AWARDS & COLLABORATIONS

Intensive Supervised Probation Grant (ODRC): **\$371,816 (over 2 years)**

(funds probation officers' salaries and support services for ISP probationers)

Targeted Alternatives to Prison Grant (ODRC): **\$723,952 (over 2 years)**

(collaboration with Commissioners and Sheriff to hire additional staff, provide mental health and substance abuse services in the jail and purchase equipment)

Addiction Treatment Program Grant (OMHAS/ADAMH): **\$10,000**

(collaboration with ADAMH to provide wrap-around services to specialized docket participants)

Recovery Court Grant (OMHAS/ADAMH): **\$40,000**

(funds salary of court staff and recovery supports for specialized docket participants)

Technology Grant (Ohio Supreme Court): **\$18,276**

(funds additional case management portal for staff)

Civil Justice Reform Grant (Ohio Supreme Court): **\$12,353**

(funds legal assistance program for litigants in protection order cases)

DIRECTORY

Assignment Commissioners

Misty Conkle (J. Berens) 740-652-7431
Kathy Hartman (J. Trimmer) 740-652-7427

Administrative Assistants

Traci Dresbach (J. Berens) 740-652-7435
Shannon Seesholtz (Fiscal/Mag. Boone) 740-652-7434

Bailiffs / Staff Attorneys

Kelly Munn, Paralegal (J. Trimmer) 740-652-7430
Mary Quimby, Attorney (J. Berens) 740-652-7432

Court Administrator / Magistrate

Jillian Boone 740-652-7424

Court Services Coordinator

Kelly Starkey 740-652-7433

Director of Community Control & CPO*

Angel Sanderson 740-652-7344

Community Control Officers

B. Casey Jones (ISP SPO*) 740-652-7346
Dan Jones (Basic SPO*) 740-652-7345
Danielle Pizzuto 740-652-7348
Austin Miller 740-652-7341
Kelsey Conn 740-652-7353
Tim Norris 740-652-7354
Laurie Henderson 740-652-7342
Wayne Moss 740-652-7347
Samantha Green 740-652-7425
Michael Welker 740-652-7398
Patches Thomas 740-652-7454
Tiffany Westhoven (Pretrial) 740-652-7453
Katie Spires (Pretrial) 740-652-7352
Andrew Dreyer (Pretrial) 740-652-7351
Lynne Gordon (PSI*) 740-652-7343



***Acronym Key**

CPO = Chief Probation Officer
ISP = Intensive Supervised Probation
SPO = Senior Probation Officer
PSI = Pre-Sentence Investigator